

Fifth Annual Baby Boom Echo Report Kicks Off Building Better Schools Week

The Baby Boom Echo Report

On August 21st, Secretary Riley will release the fifth annual Baby Boom Echo Report. The report tracks the effects on America's schools of the tremendous increase in the number of children attending our nation's schools and will project future increases to 2010. As a result, many of our schools are overcrowded and deteriorating, and the sight of portable classrooms filling up school playgrounds is increasingly common.

This year's report emphasizes the impact the Baby Boom Echo has on urban, suburban and rural schools in all regions of the country. The report will highlight the enrollment pressures on schools in 7 of the nation's largest and fastest growing metropolitan areas: Atlanta, GA; Los Angeles, CA; Chicago, IL; Miami, FL; the Washington, DC metro area; Boston, MA and Las Vegas, NV.

Building Better Schools Week

"What kind of message do we send our students and teachers when we send them into rundown, overcrowded schools?... As we enter this new century, let's show our children that they are our priority. Let's build schools for them."

Secretary Riley, Remarks to National Education Association, July 4th, 2000

In light of the enrollment growth described in the Baby Boom Echo report, many communities throughout the United States face an urgent need for school modernization, renovation and repair to accommodate rising enrollments. In an effort to emphasize this growing need, Secretary Riley has declared the Week of August 21-26, 2000 as Building Better Schools Week.

All Types of Schools, All Across the Country

This need is being felt by urban, suburban, and rural schools alike, and by communities in all regions of the country. Following Building Better Schools Week, Secretary Riley will travel along the Mississippi Delta on his second annual "Success Express" Bus Tour. On his trip, the Secretary will visit schools in Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri and Illinois to highlight the issues, including school construction, that face our nation's schools as students return to school this fall.

Schools as the Centers of Community

The U. S. Department of Education encourages educators, parents, advocates and leaders at all levels of government to take advantage of this week to educate their communities and leaders about their school construction, repair and modernization needs. Building Better Schools week is also an opportunity to celebrate communities' successes in building and modernizing schools. It is important to highlight the innovative strategies being taken by communities across the country to create school buildings that make schools the centers of community.

Join Secretary Riley and the U. S. Department of Education

For more information on Building Better Schools Week and how you can be involved, or on Department of Education Resources to help educate your community about the need for school construction, please contact Sara Mead at (202)401-8450 or by e-mail Sara_Mead2@ed.gov or visit the Building Better Schools Week Website at: www.ed.gov/inits/construction/.

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